

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 08092 290738Z

21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 (ISO) W

----- 111099

R 290620Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6794

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 8092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF SENIOR LPF OFFICIAL IN VIENTIANE

1. LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY INFORMED DCM AT SOCIAL EVENT NOVEMBER 28 THAT LPF CHAIRMAN SOUPHANOUVONG HAD DECLINED PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO MEET WITH HIM AT LUANG PRABANG THROUGH SAME CHANNEL AS INVITATION WAS EXTENDED: LPSBSENIOR OFFICIAL PHOUN SIPRASEUTH. SOTH SAID PHOUN HAD INFORMED SOUVANNA THAT SHOUPHANOUVONG CONSIDERS THE MEETING " A GOOD IDEA, BUT NOT RIGHT NOW."

2. HOWEVER SENIOR PATHET LAO COMMUNIST LEADER SANAN SOUTHICHAK ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE NOVEMBER 26, THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN 20 YEARS HE HAS BEEN IN THE CAPITAL. SANAN IS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE LPF AND THE LAO PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (LPRP) CENTRAL COMMITTEES.

UR BIO

DATA INDICATED HE WAS BORN 1925 IN PAKSE. HE REPORTEDLY SERVES AS CHIEF OF PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION FOR THE LPF AND ALSO FUNCTIONED AT ONE TIME AS CHIEF OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 08092 290738Z

A COVER UNIT FOR LPRP INTELLIGENCE.

3. SANAN WAS SURFACED AT A POLISH RECEPTION NOVEMBER 28, WHERE HE WAS THE OBJECT OF WIDESPREAD COMMENT AND CHATTED FREELY WITH DCM. SOTH PHETRASY TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HIS RETURN SHOULD BE REGARDED AS "A GOOD SIGN" AND THIS INDEED IS THE WAY THE VIENTIANE POLITICAL COMMUNITY IS INTERPRETING IT.

4. IT APPEARS, FROM OTHER SOURCES, THAT SANAN IS MAKING ONLY A BRIEF "INSPECTION VISIT" OF LPF INSTALLATIONS A C THE GENERAL SITUATION IN VIENTIANE. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO SAM NEUA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SANAN'S VISIT IS A GOOD INDICATION THAT, DESPITE LPF COMPLAINTS ABOUT FACILITIES AND SECURITY IN VIENTIANE, LPF IS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT PRESENT SITUATION IN VIENTIANE IS STABLE ENOUGH FOR A SUCH A VISIT.
WHITEHOUSE

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